

DRAFT
Northampton Policing Review Commission
Alternatives to Policing Subcommittee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, December 16, 2020
6:30PM-8PM
Remote Meeting

Join the Remote Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/92046603563?pwd=UGNELy9RQXVkJmpEemZDSEhEWfpDQT09> Or

by telephone, call: +1 929 436 2866 Meeting ID: 920 4660 3563 Passcode: 628190

1. Call to Order by meeting chair
 - a. Announcement of Zoom Recording
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Approval of Meeting Minutes
2. **6:30-7pm** Public Comment
3. **7-8pm** Preparation of subcommittee report for the Larger commission
 - a. Editing of documents
 - b. Possible topics:
 - i. Mental Health Response
 - ii. Domestic Violence/sexual abuse
 - iii. Community based policing
 - iv. Restorative Justice
 - v. Substance abuse
 - vi. Employment
4. Adjourn

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Booker Bush at 6:41PM.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM RECORDING

Commissioner Cynthia Suopis made an announcement that this meeting was being recorded for the public record and would be available on Northampton Open Media, as well as, the City of Northampton website.

Roll Call

Commissioner Booker Bush Present

Commissioner Alex Jarrett Present

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido Present

Commissioner Carol Owen Present

2. Public Comment

Richard Hendrick

Ed Olmstead

Ya-Ping Douglass

Hildegard Freedman

3. Preparation of subcommittee report for the Larger commission

Commissioner Alex Jarrett said he put together some notes from the committee in a document with additional research he has done. He said there's so many people locally that the committee hasn't yet reached out to about many of these issues. He said he thinks the committee is pretty good with understanding potential mental health responses, but when it comes to substance use and to domestic violence, he said the committee hasn't heard from the necessary people, in order to make any concrete recommendations.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido wondered whether the committee feels that it is also in need of a connecting narrative. He said the ways homeless people are being targeted is of concern. He also named wellness calls as being mentioned in public comment that have been a concern. He wondered if there is language that could help explain the intertwined narratives.

Commissioner Booker Bush said these topics are hard to disentangle because they are all intertwined. He said he chose to focus more on mental health because he thought there were lots of examples out there nationally for ways this work can be done. He said this was, "low hanging fruit" sort of, whereas the issues of fixing homelessness, and the impact it would have, is more daunting. He said these are all interrelated.

Commissioner Carol Owen said she would argue that from a policy perspective, in terms of historical perspective in this country, that there have been programs that have existed to help people to not fall behind on their rent. She said often the program is not sufficient, because we really need to build public and private partnerships, again, that stimulate the developers to start building more apartments for affordable apartments and so forth. She said she thinks there has

been a big ignoring in this country, the need for more moderate and low income housing. She said she would argue that the committee hasn't really unpacked this other than saying there's a problem of unhoused people, and it's growing. She said there is consensus that that's a distinct problem, and that that is only going to grow in Northampton until it's addressed.

Commissioner Booker Bush said the committee has been hearing about it in public comment too and said that it's absolutely putting the police into positions of having to criminalize behavior, and that's the problem. He noted he was in the Human Rights Commission meeting earlier and that the whole meeting was about housing and what's going on at the moment at the new shelter at First Parishes, and what they're hearing about the availability of other housing.

10. Adjourn

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. Commissioner Alex Jarrett seconded. The motion adjourn was passed unanimously.